

Application Serial No. 07/736,384, filed July 26, 1991, now abandoned, which is a divisional of Application Serial No. 07/473,667, filed February 2, 1990, now abandoned.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice.

Please add claims 8-51 as follows:

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8. A device, comprising:
a main body portion defining a proximal end and a distal end and including a pre-bent portion between the proximal and distal ends;
a deflectable portion associated with the distal end of the main body portion and deflectable relative to the main body portion; and
at least one operative element carried by the deflectable portion.
9. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the main body portion comprises a catheter body.
10. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pre-bent portion comprises a pre-bent wire biased to a predetermined curvature.
11. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pre-bent portion comprises a thermally formed tube biased to a predetermined curvature.
12. A device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pre-bent portion further comprises a pre-bent support biased to the predetermined curvature.
13. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the deflectable portion comprises a steering spring.

14. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein pre-bent portion defines a pre-bent portion plane and the deflectable portion deflects within the pre-bent portion plane.

15. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein pre-bent portion defines a pre-bent portion plane and the deflectable portion deflects out of the pre-bent portion plane.

16. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least two directions.

17. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least four directions.

18. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one operative element comprises an electrode.

19. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one operative element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

20. A device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
a steering mechanism, operably connected to the deflectable portion, that bends the deflectable portion relative to the main body portion.

21. A device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the steering mechanism comprises at least one steering wire secured within the deflectable portion.

22. A device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the steering mechanism further comprises a handle connected to the proximal end of the main body portion and to the at least one steering wire.

23. A catheter, comprising:
- a main body portion defining a proximal end and a distal end and including a pre-bent portion located proximal of, and substantially adjacent to, the distal end, the pre-bent portion defining a pre-bent portion plane;
 - a deflectable portion, including a steering spring defining first and second sides and configured to bend in the pre-bent portion plane, associated with the distal end of the main body portion and deflectable relative to the main body portion;
 - first and second steering wires connected to first and second sides of the steering spring; and
 - at least one electrode carried by the catheter deflectable portion.
24. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the pre-bent portion comprises a pre-bent wire biased to a predetermined curvature.
25. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the pre-bent portion comprises a thermally formed tube biased to a predetermined curvature.
26. A catheter as claimed in claim 25, wherein the pre-bent portion further comprises a pre-bent support biased to the predetermined curvature.
27. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the steering spring comprises a first portion configured to deflect in the pre-bent portion plane and a second portion configured to deflect out of the pre-bent portion plane.
28. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the at least one electrode comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.
29. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, further comprising
- a handle connected to the proximal end of the main body portion and to the first and second steering wires.

30. A device, comprising:
a main body portion defining a proximal end and a distal end and including a malleable portion between the proximal and distal ends;
a deflectable portion associated with the distal end of the main body portion and deflectable relative to the main body portion; and
at least one operative element carried by the deflectable portion.

31. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the main body portion comprises a catheter body.

32. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the deflectable portion comprises a steering spring.

33. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least two directions.

34. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least four directions.

35. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the at least one operative element comprises an electrode.

36. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the at least one operative element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

37. A device as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:
a steering mechanism, operably connected to the deflectable portion, that bends the deflectable portion relative to the main body portion.

38. A device as claimed in claim 37, wherein the steering mechanism comprises at least one steering wire secured within the deflectable portion.

39. A device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the steering mechanism further comprises a handle connected to the proximal end of the main body portion and to the at least one steering wire.

40. A device, comprising:
a main body portion defining a proximal end and a distal end;
a deflectable portion associated with the distal end of the main body portion and deflectable relative to the main body portion;
a pre-bent stylet movable within the main body portion; and
at least one operative element carried by the deflectable portion.

41. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the main body portion comprises a catheter body.

42. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the deflectable portion comprises a steering spring.

43. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least two directions.

44. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least four directions.

45. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein pre-bent stylet defines a pre-bent stylet plane and the deflectable portion deflects within the pre-bent stylet plane.

46. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein pre-bent stylet defines a pre-bent stylet plane and the deflectable portion deflects out of the pre-bent stylet plane.

47. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the at least one operative element comprises an electrode.

48. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the at least one operative element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

49. A device as claimed in claim 40, further comprising:
a steering mechanism, operably connected to the deflectable portion, that bends the deflectable portion relative to the main body portion.

50. A device as claimed in claim 49, wherein the steering mechanism comprises at least one steering wire secured within the deflectable portion.

51. A device as claimed in claim 50, wherein the steering mechanism further comprises a handle connected to the proximal end of the main body portion, to the at least one steering wire, and to the pre-bent stylet.